

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-09 AGR-10

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05

CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 /151 W  
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TAGS: EGEN, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP ON GA RESOLUTION RE DESERTIFICATION: 3337 (XXXIX)

SUMMARY. STEP ARE UNDERWAY IN UN SECRETARIAT TO TAKE ACTIONS CALLED FOR IN SUBJECT RESOLUTION WITH VIEW TO MOUNTING CONCERTED UN DESERTIFICATION PROGRAM. GENERAL APPROACH TO ISSUE TO BE DISCUSSED AT INTER-AGENCY MEETING IN ROME IN MARCH. END SUMMARY.

1. DEPARTMENT MAY RECALL THAT SUBJECT RESOLUTION HAD FOUR KEY ACTION COMPONENTS: (1) INITIATION OF A CONCERTED INTER-NATION ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION; (2) CONVOCATION OF A UN CONFERENCE ON DESERTIFICATION WHICH WOULD GIVE IMPETUS TO THIS CONCERTED INTERNATIONAL ACTION; (3) UNEP TO ESTABLISH A CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT; (4) AND THE SYG IN COOPERATION WITH THE COMPETENT BODIES OF UN AND IN PARTICULAR UNEP TO CONVENE AN INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE TO ASSIST THIS SECRETARIAT PREPARE AN EFFECTIVE, COMPREHENSIVE AND COORDINATED ACTION PROGRAM AGAINST DESERTIFICATION, APPROPRIATE MAPS AND AN ASSESSMENT OF AVAILABLE DATA ON DESERTIFICATION AND UNCLASSIFIED

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ITS CONSEQUENCE ON THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

2. MISOFF INFORMED THAT STEPS ARE UNDERWAY TO INITIATE THESE ACTION COMPONENTS. MISOFF, FOR EXAMPLE, INFORMED THAT CHAKRAVARTHI NARASINHAN, UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL FOR INTER AGENCY AFFAIRS AND COORDINATION, IS ARRANGING FOR AN INTER-AGENCY MEETING IN ROME IN MARCH TO DISCUSS HOW THE IN SYSTEM WILL HANDLE DESERTIFICATION ISSUE, AND THAT OUT OF THIS SESSION THE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE SHOULD EMERGE. IT IS UNCLEAR AS TO PARTICIPATION BUT PRESUMABLY WILL INCLUDE AGENCIES LISTED PARA 5 OF RESOLUTION: OTC, UNDP, FAO, UNESCO, WMO, UNDO AND UNCTAD. THIS WOULD SET IN MOTION ACTION ITEM 4 LISTED PARA 1.

3. RALPH TOWNLEY, WHO MOST RECENTLY WAS DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY TO CARILLOFLORES FOR WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE, APPARENTLY HAS BEEN GIVEN NOD TO HEAD UP DESERTIFICATION PROGRAM, ALLEGEDLY WITH BACKING FROM NARASINHAN, BRAD MORSE, SALAS, VAN LAETHAM AND DE SEYHES, THIS SET IN MOTION ACTION ITEM 1 LISTED PARA 1.

4. TOWNLEY HAS DEVELOPED CONCEPTUALIZATION OF DESERTIFICATION PROGRAM AS FOLLOWS. INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE WHICH BY TERMS OF RESOLUTION IS TO ADVISE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT IN THOSE TASKS NOTED PARA 1. THESE TASKS ALL GEARED TOWARD PROJECTS. TOWNLEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE SEPARATE "MIXED" TASK FORCE CREATED, WITH EMPHASIS ON UNESCO, FAO, WHO, WMO, AND UNDP AND SIGNIFICANT INPUT; BY LEADING SCIENTISTS. THIS "MIXED" TASK FORCE WOULD ADVISE HIM AND SMALL STAFF ON DESERTIFICATION PROGRAM. IN TOWNLEY'S VIEW IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN SEPARATE IDENTITY BETWEEN PROJECT ORIENTATION AND PROGRAM ORIENTATION.

5. REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM, TOWNLEY SEES THREE AREAS OF CONCERN. FIRST, THERE SHOULD BE A DETERMINATION AS TO WHETHER THERE IS A CECULAR CHANGE IN CLIMATE THAT HAS AFFECTED DESERTS, A DETERMINATION THAT ADDITIONALLY COULD PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR LONG-TERN WEATHER FORECASTING IN DESERT AREAS. IN THIS REGARD TOWNLEY SEES A NEED TO TIE IN WITH GLOBAL ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH PROGRAM (GARP) OF WMO AND ICSU. SECOND, THERE SHOULD BE STUDY

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OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC AND CULTURAL PATTERNS OF THE PEOPLES MOST AFFECTED BY ECOLOGICAL MODIFICATION OF THE DESERT FRINGES. THIS COULD INVOLVE QUESTIONS OF RESETTLEMENT INTO RIVER BASINS, WHERE ACCORDING TO TOWNLEY THERE IS CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE ON WHICH TO DRAW, AND THE DISPLACEMENT OF PEOPLES IN ARID AND SEMI-ARID AREAS, WHERE PRESUMABLY THERE IS LITTLE KNOWLEDGE. THIRD, ANALYTICAL WORK SHOULD BE DONE IN DESERT TECHNOLOGY, I.E. ON HOW TO USE THE DESERT

ENVIRONMENT WITHOUT HAVING ITS TRANSFORMATION, WHICH PROBABLY PROHIBITIVELY EXPENSIVE, AS THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE. TOWNLEY SEES THE 1977 CONFERENCE, AT LEAST AS FOR AS THE PROGRAM IS CONCERNED, AS AN OCCASION TO REPORT PROGRESS AND SECURE THE ADHERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO A FOLLOW-THROUGH.

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